

MEDIA RELEASE

21 JULY 2009

Budget boost for city's drainage

Townsville will invest \$30 million in the city's drainage network over the next three years to better protect the community from flooding.

The big drainage package will include a roll-out of projects identified in the council's Local Flood Mitigation Strategy developed earlier this year.

This year's budget has provided a \$10 million kick-start to the commitment and includes two major flood mitigation projects that will improve local drainage.

Council will spend \$2.3 million to install a pump station to improve drainage in the Hermit Park area and \$1.2 million to reconstruct the Mitchell St/Burke St intersection and stormwater surcharge outlet to The Strand.

The drainage budget also includes a record \$3.9 million this year to replace broken kerb and channel to improve run-off, and \$3.78 million to start an on-going program to rebuild the city's old underground stormwater drains.

Infrastructure Committee chairman Cr Brian Hewett said the council was committed to drainage upgrades for the long haul.

"This year's Budget shows very clearly the council is serious about improving drainage across the city," Cr Hewett said.

Council has also budgeted \$262,000 to continue its annual smoke-testing program to reduce stormwater inundation of the city's sewers.

The program traces illegal stormwater pipe connections to the city's wastewater network as part of efforts to reduce sewage overflows in major rainfall events.

Summary of highlights in the \$10 million drainage package:

- \$2.3 million pump station in Campbell St, Hermit Park to further protect homes
- \$1.2 million for reconstruction of Mitchell St/Burke St intersection and stormwater surcharge outlet to The Strand
- \$2.23 million to rebuild ageing stormwater drains in Townsville's oldest parts such as Bell St, Boundary St, Morehead St, Nelson St, Plume St and Sixth Ave
- \$3.87 million to replace kerb and channel. Locations include Landsborough St, Montgomery St, Ramsey St, Champagne St, Upper Miles Ave
- \$1 million to repair open drains at Martello Dr (Willows)
- \$550,000 for refurbishment of Tully St underground drain including installation of tide flex valves
- \$262,000 smoke-testing to reduce stormwater inundation of the city's sewers.

Media information: Cr Brian Hewett 0410 328 382